

Software Documentation Bulletin

819-095000-644 Rev 00 11/88

SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager

1. Introduction

This Release Bulletin applies to the NEC PowerMate Portable SX Plasma Display Manager -- SETSHADE. This display manager allows both automatic and manual adjustment of the gray shade intensities used on the Plasma Display Screen.

This release contains the following utility:
SETSHADE.COM

2. Contents of the Release

2.1 Distribution Media

NEC PowerMate Portable SX Plasma Display Manager,
Diskette.

2.2 Documentation

- Software Documentation Bulletin
- Plasma Display Manager User's Guide

3. Hardware/Software Requirements

3.1 Minimum Hardware Requirements

- APC-H702X PowerMate Portable SX, in Plasma Mode

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4. Installation

The SETSHADE.COM Plasma Display Manager is installed by executing the following command at the MS-DOS prompt:

- SETSHADE [[/P] [s1 s2 s3 s4 s5 s6 s7 s8 s9 s10 s11 s12 s13 s14 s15 s16] [/C] [/?] [/H]]

Where:

- [] indicates an optional parameter.
- /P installs the SETSHADE program permanently in the system and sets Automatic Adjust Mode ON. To display the Manual Adjust screen press CTRL+ALT+TAB simultaneously. The SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager, unlike conventional Terminate and Stay-Resident (TSR) programs, does not use any of system RAM for its program or data.
- /C Toggles an external CRT monitor, if connected, between monochrome display and color display.
- s1 ... s16 specify the initial gray shade intensities. These values could be used on the command line in a batch file, for example, to set a particular set of gray shade values for a given application. You need to determine proper gray shade values by executing the SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager and recording the displayed intensity values.
- /? or /H request a help message to be displayed. No other action is taken and SETSHADE is not installed.

5. Operation

5.1 Manual Operation

Invoke SETSHADE without the /p option. This will display the Manual Adjust screen for SETSHADE. This screen allows you to select any of the displayed palette values and manually adjust the

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gray shade intensity representing the specified palette value. When you exit the SETSHADE program you will be returned to MS-DOS.

5.2 Automatic Operation

Invoke SETSHADE with the /P option. This will permanently install the SETSHADE program in the system and will enable Automatic Adjust mode. Automatic Adjust Mode selects an optimal gray shade setting for each palette color displayed on the screen by a particular application. When the application changes the palette values, Automatic Adjust mode will react to the change by computing a new optimal set of gray shade values. You may notice that your application changes modes and very shortly thereafter the relative dark to light intensities on the screen will change. This is the normal operation of the automatic mode.

Automatic mode causes the system performance to decrease slightly. The SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager allows you to disable the Automatic Adjust Mode, thereby restoring full system performance.

Once the SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager is permanently installed you can invoke the Manual Adjust screen by pressing **CTRL+ALT+TAB** simultaneously. This will allow you to fine-tune the automated gray shade selections to your own preferences. In almost all cases the Automatic Adjust Mode values selected are the optimal gray shade choices and you will not need to manually adjust them.

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6. Unsupported Video Modes

The SETSHADE Plasma Display Manager does not support Hercules emulation mode, MDA emulation mode, or CGA emulation mode. Support for these modes may be added in a future release.

7. Enhancements

Not applicable to this release.

8. Cautions and Restrictions

- The Plasma Display Manager is designed to execute in any of the standard VGA modes and does not effect any changes in any of the extended or enhanced modes. This utility only executes when the PowerMate Portable SX is configured in Plasma Mode.
- The Plasma Display Manager will not execute if an option ROM is installed in the address range E000:0000 to E000:FFFF.
- A partial display or no display of the Manual Adjustment screen may occur. This is caused by applications that directly program the hardware registers without updating the BIOS data area. If this problem occurs, keep pressing the **CTRL-ALT-TAB** key combination followed by the **ESCAPE** key until the Manual Adjustment screen is displayed properly. The manual adjustment feature can be used normally once the full screen is displayed. The direct hardware register manipulation described should not affect the Automatic Adjustment feature.
- If you have the TSR Sidekick loaded on your system, you may encounter a conflict trying to invoke the Setshade Manual Adjustment screen. Because Sidekick uses **CTRL+ALT** to

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activate and Setshade uses **CTRL+ALT+TAB** to activate, the keystroke sequence used is very important.

If you have version 1.11c of Sidekick, use the following sequence to activate Setshade. Press and release **CTRL+ALT**; this will cause Sidekick to become active. Press **CTRL+ALT** a second time, but do not release the keys; this will deactivate Sidekick. At this point, while continuing to hold down the **CTRL+ALT** keys, press the Tab key. This will activate Setshade.

A later revision of Sidekick, version 1.56b, will not allow you to execute Setshade this way. One way to get around the limitation in this version of Sidekick is to change the Hot Keys by running "SKINST"; replace Ctrl+Alt with the two Shift keys.

- When disabling Automatic Adjust Mode, you should issue a video mode change command or exit and re-enter your application. This will restore the default palette settings for your application.

9. Problems Fixed

Not applicable to this release.